



# Flora of North-west Yorkshire

A botanical newsletter for VC65

Issue 5. Spring 2013

**Welcome** to this our fifth newsletter for VC65 which is intended to keep you up-to date with botanical activities in North-west Yorkshire. For geographical details of the vice county please visit our website at: [http://www.bsbi.org.uk/nw\\_yorkshire.html](http://www.bsbi.org.uk/nw_yorkshire.html) and click on 'A brief tour of v.c.65'.

## **Field Meetings in 2012**

The Field Meetings in the v.c. were quite well attended, many thanks to Mike Canaway and the Craven Conservation Group, who organized a couple of the meetings, thanks also to members of Natural England and Yorkshire Dales National Park: Pippa Merricks, Mark Owen, Richard Dimon, Robert Goodison, Sue Reed and Frances Graham for their help with records and information and/or company on some of the field meetings and Threatened Plant Project Surveys. Many thanks also to Deborah Millward and members of the Yoredale Naturalists who assisted Kevin and myself with the TPP survey of Small White Orchids in Fotheringholme SSSI. Thanks also to Julie Clarke who is recording the Dentdale hectad and Brian Burrow who is working his way through v.c.65 Hieracium and Taraxacum species and filling in recording sheets as he goes. Many thanks to Tim & Eileen Laurie who have accompanied me on many high level forays around Stainmore and Swaledale, Stuart Hedley for his help on Cronkley Pasture and Dr. Margaret Bradshaw for her support, help and old records in Teesdale, Mel and Elaine Linney from the south of the county who helped me round Leckby and Cundall and lastly my Cumbrian friends Mary Smith on the early Galanthus spotting jaunts and June Byerley and the late Rena Kidd who helped in the search for Burnt Orchids.

## **Notable finds in 2012**

*Carpinus betulus* (Hornbeam) a lollipop shaped fastigate form has been planted in the hedges near Skelton on Ure, Boroughbridge, numerous trees were noted by LR on 19.8.2012 (SE34.68)

*Fraxinus angustifolia* (Narrow-leaved Ash) three specimens were seen planted in hedgerows near Marton-le-Moor on 19.8.2012 by LR (SE36.70)

*Galanthus elwesii* (Greater Snowdrop) a good clump was found on the verge just north of Ulshaw Bridge by LR in early March, this must have been the old record in the file, the GR was slightly wrong indicating it was in an adjacent tetrad (SE14.86)

*Gymnocarpium robertianum* (Limestone Fern) Brian Burrow found this fern on Combe Scar, Barbondale in May (SD66.86), then on 4th July Mike Canaway spotted it growing on the ruined roadside wall at Cowgill Wold (SD78.88)

*Helminthotheca echioides* (Bristly Oxtongue) was found alongside the footpath on the edge of an arable field just outside the village of Cundall by Mel and Elaine Linney and LR in July (SE98.04)

*Hieracia* & *Taraxacum* sp. Brian Burrow found three new records for Hawkweeds in the v.c., these were *Hieracium calcaricola* in the Cowgill Head area (SD78.88), *Hieracium crebridentiforme* on Dodd Fell (SD84.84) and *Hieracium tricolorans* at Burtersett on the Yorburgh Cliffs (SD88.88). *Taraxacum brachyglossum* was found in Barbondale (SD68.86), Grove Head (SD82.82) and Wether Fell (SD86.86).

*Hordelymus europaeus* (Wood Barley) this uncommon woodland grass was found in June in

Deepdale Woods, Barnard Castle, near the footbridge over the beck by John Durkin (NZ02.16)

*Hymenophyllum wilsonii* (Wilson's Filmy Fern) was found by Brian Burrow on Combe Scar in Barbondale (SD66.86)

*Juncus alpinoarticulatus* (Alpine Rush) three sites for this were seen along Cronkley Pasture in the line of calcareous flushes and springs below Cronkley Scar on 1.9.2012 by Stuart Hedley and LR. (NY84.28)

*Malva neglecta* (Dwarf Mallow) this was found on 29.7.2012 on a roadside verge just outside the village of Cundall by Mel and Elaine Linney and LR (SE42.72)

*Myosotis x bollandica* (*Myosotis secunda* x *M. stolonifera*) this newly described hybrid Forget-me-not was spotted firstly by Mike Wilcox on a streamside in Widdale above Hawes in 2011 and another specimen was spotted later the same year by LR and Tim & Eileen Laurie beside the stream up East Stonesdale with both parents nearby. These have both been accepted as *M. x bollandica* and are first and second records for v.c.65.

*Neottia nidus-avis* (Bird's-nest Orchis) on 1/7/2012 a few plants were found by John Durkin in Deepdale Woods, Barnard Castle (NZ02.16)

*Orobanche alba* (Thyme Broomrape) a good colony of this species was seen and photographed by members of the BSBI Field Meeting on 14.7.2012 in Leyburn Quarry, thanks to Deborah Millward for guiding us to it. (SE10.90)

*Polypodium x mantoniae* (*Polypodium vulgare* x *P. interjectum*) two colonies of this hybrid Polypody was found on 12.8.2012 by David Tennant and Brian Burrow and identified by Bruce Brown on cliffs on Wether Fell. (SD86.86)

*Pseudorchis albida* (Small White Orchid) a new site was discovered in Len Pastures SSSI on 30.6.2012, we had been counting the Butterfly Orchids when Ros James called us over to look at a strange small one which turned out to be *Pseudorchis*. After further searching we found 17 in total and ended up filling out a TPP form. (SD96.96)

*Salix caprea* subsp. *sphacelata* (Scottish form of Goat Willow) was found on 3.5.2012 by David Tennant and Brian Burrow and confirmed by Desmond Meikle on Haw Bank near Carperby in native limestone woodland, a second visit revealed

there were at least 3 trees but possibly more in the immediate area. (SD98.88)

*Saxifraga aizoides* (Yellow Saxifrage) masses of this Saxifrage was seen along the length of Cronkley Pasture in the line of calcareous flushes and springs below Cronkley Scar on 1.9.2012 by Stuart Hedley and LR. v.c.65 files do not contain any records of this species in this area but Dr. Margaret Bradshaw has known it from here since the 1970's. (NY84.12)

*Saxifraga hirculus* (Marsh Saxifrage) a completely new site for this BAP species was found by Tim Laurie, Eileen Laurie and LR on a tufa spring mound at the head of Mud Beck at the top of Arkengarthdale on 3.8.2012. It is approximately mid-way between the Shunner Fell site and the Pennine sites and a picture of one of the flowers is at the top of this page. (NY94.08)

*Trichophorum x foersteri* (Hybrid Trichophorum) plants continue to be found, this year four sites at the top of Arkengarthdale were discovered and one on Cronkley Pasture. The pure *Trichophorum cespitosum* has not been found.....yet.

*X Dactyloдения evansii* (*Gymnadenia borealis* x *Dactylorhiza maculata*) this hybrid between Heath Fragrant Orchid and Heath Spotted Orchid was found in Fotheringholme SSSI by Alan Gendle on 5.7.2012, this is a first record for v.c.65. (NY98.04)

## Aliens

*Helleborus foetidus* (Stinking Hellebore) was found naturalised and spreading on the edge of Marfield Plantation by Mary Smith and LR on 8.3.2012 (SE20.82)

*Kerria japonica* (Kerria) was found by Julie Clarke in the Hebblethwaite Hall area just north of Sedbergh (SD68.92)

*Laburnum x watereri* (Laburnum) was found in a hedge along Moor Lane north of Boroughbridge (SE38.68)

*Persicaria capitata* (Pink-headed Persicaria) was seen at the base of a wall in Sedbergh by Julie Clarke in October (SD64.92)

## Threatened Plant Survey

We did three TPP surveys for the *Alchemilla wichurae* sites in Teesdale with the exception of one in a pasture near Wynch Bridge which we left too late in the season. We found two sites at the north end of Cronkley Pastures which must have been the old 1950's records of Max Walters. We had a Field Meeting to try and re-find an old site for Small White Orchid above Gunnerside but whilst there was plenty of suitable habitat we didn't find any plants but we did find a new site further down Swaledale in Len Pastures SSSI near Crackpot. Seventeen spikes were seen and a TPP Survey form completed. We visited Leyburn Glebe again to see if there were any Burnt Orchids after a null result last year and found six spikes so another TPP survey form was duly filled in. After a report that Richard Dimon and Robert Goodison had found two Burnt Orchid spikes below Cover Bridge June Byerley, the late Rena Kidd and LR traced the plants and filled in another TPP form. Other records of Burnt Orchids from near Swinithwaite, Aysgarth and Thoraby were hunted for with null results, the cold spring had meant that the sheep were still in the low lying fields as there was nothing to eat on the fells so the Orchids did not get the chance to flower, these sites will be re-visited in 2013. Tim and Eileen Laurie and LR found a good calcareous flush with *Blysmus compressus* up on Stainmore so another TPP form was filled in for that.

## Recording plans for the future

About 25,000 records covering mainly 2000-2012 were put into MapMate by L.R. over the winter months but there are still the records up to 2000 to get in. Two sets of boxfiles are now on excel but there is still a briefcase full of paper records to go through, when these get put on excel they can be sorted, duplicates discarded and missing grid references and place names put in, then they can be put into MapMate and added to the c.40,000 records or so already in the *Vascular Plants Database* at CEH Wallingford (formerly Monks Wood).

We are hoping to produce a check list for the vice county this year and we are still in the process of producing a Rare Plants Register. We are focusing our recording efforts on species that are either nationally rare or scarce (i.e. recorded in less than 100 10 × 10 km squares) or classified as threatened in the new Red Data List of the British flora published in 2005. Currently this includes the 126 native and archaeophyte taxa listed below:

*Actaea spicata*                      *Hypericum montanum*  
*Alchemilla acutiloba*            *Juncus alpinoarticulatus*

*Alchemilla glaucescens*  
*Alchemilla glomerulans*  
*Alchemilla minima*  
*Alchemilla monticola*  
*Alchemilla subcrenata*  
*Alchemilla wichurae*  
*Allium oleraceum*  
*Alopecurus borealis*  
*Anthemis arvensis*  
*Arabis glabra*  
*Asplenium trichomanes*  
*ssp.*  
*pachyrachis*  
*Bartsia alpina*

*Blysmus compressus*  
*Bromopsis benekenii*  
*Cardamine impatiens*  
*Carex capillaris*  
*Carex digitata*  
*Carex ericetorum*  
*Carex muricata ssp.*  
*muricata*  
*Carex vaginata*  
*Chenopodium bonus-*  
*henricus*  
*Chrysanthemum*  
*segetum*  
*Circaea alpina*  
*Clinopodium calamintha*  
*Cochlearia micacea*  
*Cochlearia pyrenaica*  
*Coeloglossum viride*  
*Crepis mollis*  
*Cynoglossum officinale*  
*Cypripedium calceolus*  
*Dactylorhiza*  
*traunsteinerioides*  
*Daphne mezereum*  
*Draba muralis*  
*Dryas octopetala*  
*Dryopteris submontana*  
*Epipactis atrorubens*  
*Epipactis phyllanthes*  
*Equisetum pratense*  
*Equisetum variegatum*  
*Eriophorum gracile*  
*Erophila majuscula*  
*Euphorbia exigua*  
*Euphrasia rostkoviana*  
*ssp.*  
*montana*  
*Euphrasia rostkoviana*  
*ssp.*  
*rostkoviana*  
*Filago vulgaris*

*Juncus compressus*  
*Kobresia simpliciuscula*  
*Limosella aquatica*  
*Linum perenne*  
*Luronium natans*  
*Lysimachia thyrsiflora*  
*Melampyrum sylvaticum*  
*Meum athamanticum*  
*Minuartia hybrid*  
*Minuartia verna*

*Myosotis alpestris*  
*Myosotis stolonifera*  
*Myosurus minimus*  
*Myriophyllum*  
*verticillatum*  
*Oenanthe fistulosa*  
*Ophrys insectifera*  
*Anacamptis morio*  
*Neotinea ustulata*  
*Orobanche alba*  
*Orobanche rapum-*  
*genistae*  
*Orobanche reticulata*

*Papaver argemone*

*Persicaria minor*  
*Peucedanum ostruthium*  
*Pilularia globulifera*  
*Polemonium caeruleum*  
*Polygala amarella*  
*Polystichum lonchitis*  
*Potamogeton coloratus*  
*Potamogeton friesii*  
*Potentilla crantzii*

*Potentilla fruticosa*  
*Potentilla neumanniana*  
*Primula farinosa*  
*Pseudorchis albida*  
*Ranunculus arvensis*  
*Ribes alpinum*  
*Ribes spicatum*  
*Rosa agrestis*  
*Rumex pseudoalpinus*  
*Saxifraga hirculus*  
*Saxifraga hypnoides*  
*Scandix pecten-veneris*

*Scheuchzeria palustris*  
*Sedum villosum*

*Sesleria caerulea*  
*Silene gallica*  
*Silene noctiflora*

<i>Fumaria purpurea</i>	<i>Sium latifolium</i>
<i>Galeopsis angustifolia</i>	<i>Sorbus rupicola</i>
<i>Galeopsis speciosa</i>	<i>Spergula arvensis</i>
<i>Genista anglica</i>	<i>Spiranthes spiralis</i>
<i>Gentiana verna</i>	<i>Stachys arvensis</i>
<i>Gentianella campestris</i>	<i>Stellaria palustris</i>
<i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i>	<i>Teesdalia nudicaulis</i>
<i>Groenlandia densa</i>	<i>Teucrium scordium</i>
<i>Gymnocarpium robertianum</i>	<i>Thlaspi caerulescens</i>
<i>Helianthemum oelandicum</i>	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>
<i>ssp. levigatum</i>	<i>Utricularia australis</i>
<i>Hordelymus europaeus</i>	<i>Valerianella dentata</i>
<i>Hornungia petraea</i>	<i>Vicia orobus</i>
<i>Hymenophyllum wilsonii</i>	<i>Viola tricolor</i>
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	<i>Woodsia ilvensis</i>

Some of these species are long extinct (e.g. *Cypripedium calceolus*, *Eriophorum gracile*, *Scheuchzeria palustris*, *Woodsia ilvensis*) whereas others are relatively common in VC65 (e.g. *Minuartia verna*, *Primula farinosa*, *Sesleria caerulea*). We would welcome any recent records or help with checking out old sites for any of these species.

We have already made a start to record the flora of the entire county, at the tetrad scale, our Field Meetings this year reflect the areas where we have few or no records, the eastern edge of the county is relatively unrecorded as is the Coverdale area. Please feel free to come along to these meetings or alternatively if you would like to concentrate on specific areas or hectads closer to home then please feel free to get in touch to see how we can help. We can supply lists of species for each hectad, probably some old records and recording forms.

### Field Meetings 2013

All Field Meetings start at 10.30am. If you intend to come along to meetings please let Linda Robinson know, contact details at end of Newsletter.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Cleasby, Gagea hunt, meet near Church in village at NZ249.130

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Winston Bridge, meet at junction of lane to Hedgeholme to east of bridge at NZ145.162

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May – Druids Plantation, meet at Car Park near Druids Temple at SE177.787

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May – Ellingstring, meet near phone box in village at SE176.836

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Melmerby Moor, meet cattle grid, Wrankeld Well Spring at SE067.869

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Scorton, meet near Pub in centre of village at NZ250.001

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Kingsdale Head, meet near summit where the track joins from the NW near High Moss at SD723.823 (Meeting in conjunction with Craven Conservation Group)

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July – Flinters Gill, meet in car park in Dent (may have to pay to park) at SD703.872 (Meeting in conjunction with Craven Conservation Group)

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Cover Head, meet near County boundary at Cattle Grid at SD986757

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August – Holme, meet near junction with Church Lane Track at SE353.822

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August – Arkleside, Coverdale, meet in Arkleside at SE044.804

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September – Caldbergh, meet at junction of Red Way track below Caldbergh at SE092.852

There are other unscheduled field trips which get organised at the last minute depending on weather, work etc. so if anyone is prepared to drop everything at a moment's notice you are welcome to come along. Please give me your contact details and I will let you know and be glad of the company.

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